

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
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O R 171510Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1637
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
LAMEMBASSY MOSCOW 3169
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
USMISSION BERLIN
USMISSION NATO
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 1069

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CSCE, SHUM, RO
SUBJ: ROMANIAN DISSENT (CONTINUED)
REF: BUCHAREST 973 AND 967

1. SUMMARY EMBOFF FEBRUARY 17 MET WITH TWO OF
SIGNERS OF ROMANIAN DISSIDENT MANIFESTO AT EMBASSY. THEY REPORT
THAT AUTHOR PAUL GOMA HAS BEEN PICKED UP BY
ROMANIAN AUTHORITIES, ALTHOUGH THEY DO NOT KNOW IF
HE IS BEING HELD TEMPORARILY FOR INTERROGATION OR
IF SITUATION IS MORE SERIOUS. NUMBER OF SIGNATORIES
ON DOCUMENT HAS RISEN TO 13, ALL OF WHOM (EXCEPT
GOMA) ARE UNKNOWN TO ROMANIAN PUBLIC. ALL APPEAR
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TO BE UNDER SURVEILLANCE AND TELEPHONE LINES OF
GOMA AND MANOLIU HAVE BEEN "OUT OF ORDER", FOLLOWING
NUMEROUS TELEPHONIC REQUESTS FROM FOREIGN-BASED
JOURNALISTS FOR INTERVIEWS. IN MEANTIME, CEAUSESCU
HAS DELIVERED HIS MOST VIGOROUS ATTACK YET ON "TRAITORS"
AND WESTERN INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF OTHER
COUNTRIES UNDER GUISE OF HELSINKI AGREEMENT. END

SUMMARY.

2. GOMA DETAINED. EMBOFF MET FEBRUARY 17 WITH SERGIU MANOLIU AND SERBAN STEFANESCU, TWO SIGNERS OF "OPEN LETTER" ADDRESSED TO CSCE PARTICIPANTS (TEXT SENT SEPTEL).

THEY REPORTED THAT ALL SIGNERS OF MANIFESTO (NUMBER HAS RISEN TO 13) WERE UNDER CONSTANT SURVEILLANCE AND THAT TELEPHONE LINES OF GOMA AND MANOLIU WERE "OUT OF ORDER" FOLLOWING NUMEROUS CALLS OF SUPPORT FROM ABROAD, AS WELL AS MANY JOURNALISTIC REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS. THEY WERE PESSIMISTIC AS TO POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING MANY MORE SIGNATORIES DUE TO POLICE PRESSURE AND INTIMIDATION, AS WELL AS WELL-KNOWN RELUCTANCE OF ROMANIAN INTELLECTUALS TO BECOME "INVOLVED". HALF AN HOUR AFTER DEPARTURE FROM EMBASSY, MANOLIU AND STEFANESCU RETURNED TO SAY THAT THEY HAD BEEN TO GOMA'S APARTMENT, BUT HAD BEEN PREVENTED FROM ENTERING BUILDING BY SECURITATE OFFICIALS. WHEN THEY ATTEMPTED TO DETERMINE IF GOMA WAS IN HIS APARTMENT BY SHOUTING AT WINDOW, THEY WERE ALSO THREATENED BY POLICE. BOTH ASSUME GOMA AND HIS WIFE HAVE BEEN ARRESTED, BUT THEY HAVE NO INDICATION OF CHARGES OR HOW LONG THEY MAY BE DETAINED.

3. OTHERS LET GO. MANOLIU AND HIS MOTHER WERE GRANTED STATELESS PASSPORTS IN EARLY FEBRUARY AND AFTER UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS IN OBTAINING A SWEDISH OR FRENCH VISA, ARE NOW PROMISED A VISA FOR AUSTRIA. THEY EXPECT TO LEAVE IN WEEK OR SO, IF STILL ALLOWED TO DO SO. TWO
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OTHER SIGNERS OF MANIFESTO, ERWIN AND EMILA GESSWEIN, BOTH MEMBERS OF BUCHAREST PHILHARMONIC, HAVE ALSO RECEIVED PERMISSION FOR THEMSELVES AND FAMILY TO LEAVE FOR GERMANY. (COMMENT: GESSWEIN IS LEADER OF THE PHILHARMONIC'S BRASS SECTION, BUT HAS REPEATEDLY BEEN DENIED PERMISSION TO TRAVEL WITH ORCHESTRA ABROAD BECAUSE OF SUSPICION THAT, BEING A SAXON, HE MIGHT DEFECT TO GERMANY.)

4. CEAUSESCU ON "TRAITORS". DURING SPEECH DELIVERED TODAY TOFRONT OF SOCIALIST UNITY CONFERENCE ON LOCAL CONTROL CEAUSESCU MADE ONE OF HIS BITTEREST ATTACKS YET AGAINST "SOME CIRCLES" IN WEST WHO IMPOSE A UNILATERAL INTERPRETATION ON HELSINKI ACCORD AND ORGANIZE "CAMPAIGNS" IN ORDER HIDE THEIR OWN PROBLEMS. CEAUSESCU NOTED RECENT "REACTIVATION" OF THESE CIRCLES WHO ATTEMPT TO RECRUIT "ROOTLESS ELEMENTS" AND FORMER MEMBERS OF OLD POLITICAL PARTIES FOR USE AGAINST HELSINKI ACCORDS. DECLARING THAT ONE

CAN ALWAYS FIND PEOPLE WHO ARE "TRAITORS" TO THEIR COUNTRY, HE SAID THAT FOREIGNERS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SHOULD REALIZE THEY DAMAGE THEMSELVES BY SUPPORTING SUCH MOVEMENTS. HE STRONGLY REITERATED ROMANIAN STAND AGAINST EMIGRATION, BUT MAINTAINED THAT GOR HAS AND WILL CONTINUE TO SHOW "UNDERSTANDING" ON CONDITION THAT THOSE WHO LEAVE DON'T CONDUCT PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGNS ABROAD. IN CLOSING, HE REFERRED TO THOSE WHO SPEAK AGAINST THEIR COUNTRY TO PLEASE THEIR "MASTERS" WHO PAY THEM WITH DOLLARS AND ALLOW THEM TO USE "RADIOS" ...HE RECITED AN OLD ROMANIAN POEM WHICH CALLS CURSES DOWN UPON THE HEADS OF TRAITORS.

5. COMMENT: WE CONFESS TO SURPRISE THAT ROMANIANS HAVE DETAINED GOMA, IF THIS REPORT IS TRUE, PARTICULARLY SINCE HE SEEMED TO BE ATTRACTING CONFIDENTIAL

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SO LITTLE INTERNAL SUPPORT IN SPITE OF FOREIGN MEDIA ATTENTION FOCUSED ON HIM. GIVEN PRESENCE OF AT LEAST ONE WELL-KNOWN WESTERN JOURNALIST IN TOWN (MALCOLM BROWNE - NY TIMES) AND OBVIOUS INTEREST OF SEVERAL OTHERS, GOR WOULD SEEM TO BE RISKING SERIOUS DAMAGE TO A PUBLIC RELATIONS IMAGE IN THE WEST WHICH IT HAS SO PAINSTAKINGLY DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS IF IT NOW ALLOWS GOMA TO BECOME A "CAUSE CELEBRE". NEVERTHELESS, CEAUSESCU'S SPEECH (WE HAVE NOT YET SEEN TEXT) IS CLEAR INDICATION OF HIS VISCERAL AND EMOTIONAL REACTION TO A BLIGHT ON HIS REGIME WHICH WILL NOT SOON DISAPPEAR.
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